

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 H-03 PRS-01 PA-04

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20 CU-05

DRC-01 PC-10 /117 W

----- 038974

R 080850Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3965

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SANAA 1386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YE, US

SUBJ PEACE CORPS PRESENCE IN YEMEN; ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ACTIVITY

1. SUMMARY: PEACE CORPS PRESENCE IN YEMEN MAY BE JEOPARD-  
IZED IF IT FAILS TO FULFILL YARG'S PRIMARY EXPEC-  
TATION OF IT: INVOLVEMENT IN YEMEN-AMERICA ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE INSTITUTE. SINCE SUSPENSION OF THIS ACTIVITY  
WOULD PROBABLY TERMINATE A HIGHLY IMPORTANT USG CONTRIBU-  
TION TO DEVELOPMENT OF YEMEN AND WOULD CALL INTO QUESTION  
YARG'S SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED PEACE CORPS PRESENCE IN  
YEMEN, I FEEL IT NECESSARY PROVIDE DETAILED BACKGROUND  
ON THIS AFFAIR AS BASIS FOR WHAT I HOPE WILL BE A

DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY OF STATE THAT PROGRAM OF INTER-  
AGENCY COOPERATION SHOULD CONTINUE.

2. WHEN PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR IN YEMEN RETURNED FROM  
CONSULTATION HE ADVISED ME THAT PEACE CORPS HAD SUBMITTED

TO ITS GENERAL COUNSEL A QUESTION ON LEGALITY OF  
PEACE CORPS' CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN WELL-DIRECTED  
AND FINANCED YEMEN-AMERICA ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE.  
DETAILED BACKGROUND ON THIS AFFAIR IS AS FOLLOWS:

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3. AFTER MY DESIGNATION AS AMBASSADOR TO YAR, I WAS

VISITED AT MY THEN POST OF ASSIGNMENT IN CYPRUS IN AUGUST

1972 BY MUHAMMAD AHMAD NU'MAN WHO WAS SHORTLY TO BECOME YEMENI FOREIGN MINISTER. PURPOSE OF NU'MAN'S VISIT WAS TO REVIEW FOR MY BENEFIT DURING WASHINGTON CONSULTATION WHAT YARG HOPED US COULD UNDERTAKE IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN. AT TOP OF HIS LIST HE PUT ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING FACILITY TO WHICH YAR OFFICIALS COULD BE SENT FOR INTENSIVE TRAINING TO ENABLE THEM PURSUE COURSES ABROAD TO UPGRADE THEIR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS. ENGLISH, NU'MAN POINTED OUT, WAS SEEN BY YARG AS DOOR TO DEVELOPMENT.

4. SHORTLY AFTER NU'MAN'S VISIT, THE THEN DIRECTOR OF USIA, FRANK SHAKESPEARE, MADE AN OFFICIAL TRIP TO CYPRUS. I ASKED HIM IF USIA WOULD BE WILLING CONSIDER FINANCING AND DIRECTING AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE FACILITY OF KIND REQUESTED BY NU'MAN. SHAKESPEARE TENTATIVELY AGREED BUT SAID USIA FUNDING COULD COVER ONLY SALARY OF DIRECTOR, RENTAL OF BUILDING AND TEACHING MATERIALS. TEACHING STAFF WOULD HAVE TO BE SOUGHT ELSEWHERE.

5. ON NOVEMBER 2, 1974 I MET IN WASHINGTON WITH PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR DON HESS AND OTHERS. PEACE CORPS ASKED FOR MY SUPPORT FOR ITS ENTRY INTO YEMEN AND I SAID IT WOULD HAVE IT. I EXPLAINED THAT THE PRIORITY ACTIVITY FOR THE PEACE CORPS IN YEMEN AS I CONCEIVED IT WOULD BE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING AND IN PARTICULAR STAFFING OF A USIA-FINANCED FACILITY. THIS WAS AGREED.

6. ARMED WITH THE PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT, I AGAIN APPROACHED FRANK SHAKESPEARE WHO CONFIRMED HIS WILLINGNESS PROVIDE FINANCING AS EARLIER DISCUSSED.

7. WHEN I ARRIVED IN YEMEN IN DECEMBER 1972 I DISCOVERED THAT PEACE CORPS BILATERAL HAD IN FACT BEEN REJECTED BY TWO PREVIOUS FOREIGN MINISTER MUHSIN AL-AYNI, WHOSE ATTITUDE TOWARDS US WAS AT LEAST AMBIGUOUS, ON GROUNDS THAT YARG DIDNOT HAVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO COPE WITH ANY MORE VOLUNTEERS. ONE OF MY FIRST ACTIONS WAS

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TO REOPEN SUBJECT WITH NEW FOREIGN MINISTER NU'MAN. IN DUE COURSE HE AGREE RECONSIDER YARG POSITION PROVIDED (A) WE ASSURED HIM THAT VOLUNTEERS WOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO OTHER US AID PROGRAM ACTIVITIES, (B) THAT I WOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEM, AND (C) THAT A PRIMARY CONCERN OF THE PEACE CORPS WOULD BE TO STAFF THE ENGLISH

LANGUAGE FACILITY WHICH YARG HAD EARLIER REQUESTED.

ON RECEIVING MY ASSURANCE ON THESE POINTS THE BILATERAL  
WAS SIGNED.

8. FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE PREPARATION BY USIA, PARTICULARLY  
RETO ROYER, AND THE ARRIVAL OF FIRST PEACE CORPS  
CONTINGENT IN JULY 1973 YEMEN-AMERICA ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
INSTITUTE WAS BROUGHT INTO BEING UNDER AEGIS OF YARG  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20 CU-05

DRC-01 PC-10 /117 W

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R 080850Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3966

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SANAA 1386

9. DETAILS OF INSTITUTE'S EVOLUTION AND ACTIVITIES  
SINCE ITS CREATION ARE A MATTER OF RECORD IN DEPARTMENT.  
BRIEFLY, IT HAS TURNED OUT TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS.  
TRAINING IS PROVIDED INTER ALIA TO YARG SENIOR OFFICIALS  
WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR AID PARTICIPANT GRANTS, SECONDARY  
SCHOOL TEACHERS COMPETING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AT  
AUB, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS WHO WILL COMPRISE  
THE CORE OF TELEVISION PRODUCTION IN YARG. IN RECOGNITION  
OF THE CONTRIBUTION IT RECEIVES FROM INSTITUTE, AID  
IS CURRENTLY FUNDING ONE, AND WE HOPE ULTIMATELY TWO,  
LOCALLY RECRUITED AMERICAN TEACHERS TO SUPPLEMENT OPCV  
TIME. AT HIGHEST LEVELS YARG HAS EXPRESSED ITS PROFOUND  
SATISFACTION WITH INSTITUTE AND REQUESTED THAT WE BE  
FLEXIBLE IN SHIFTING TO THE INSTITUTE ANY VOLUNTEER  
ASSIGNED TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WHO NOT BEING PRODUCT-  
IVELY USED ELSEWHERE. PCVS WORKING AT INSTITUTE, IT

SHOULD BE NOTED, ARE OFFICIALLY ATTACHED TO MIN ED.

10. YARG DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT YEMEN-AMERICA ENGLISH GWANGUAGE INSTITUTE IN ANY WAY CONFLICTS WITH ENGLISH TRAINING AT ITS OWN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. LATTER PROVIDES NOT VERY GOOD QUALITY BASIC ENGLISH INSTRUCTION FOR ANY EMPLOYEE OF YARG WHO APPLIES. OUR INSTITUTE

IS SMALL AND TRAINING IS DIRECTED TO A TARGET GROUP CHOSEN  
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BY YARG FOR A SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSE.  
IN SHORT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF SUPPORTING AN  
INDIGENOUS INSTITUTION AGAINST A QTE FOREIGN UNQTE ONE.  
BOTH COMBINE YEMENIS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. YARG  
CONSIDERS BOTH INDIGENOUS IN TERMS OF ITS DEVELOPMENT  
NEEDS.

11. IN DEFERENCE TO PEACE CORPS WISH TO DISTANCE ITSELF  
FROM ANYTHING THUP MIGHT BE TERMED PROPAGANDF ACTIVITY,  
WE HAVE SCRUPULOUSLY KEPT INSTITUTE FREE OF ANY ACTIVITY  
OTHER THAN ENGLISH LANGUWKE TEACHING, E.G. NO FILMS OR  
LECTURES OF ANY KIND. WHEN I EXPLAINED THIS TO ACTION'S  
DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES, NICHOLAS CRAW, IN  
WASHINGTON ON MARCH 7, 1974 HE CONCURRED IN CONTINUED  
PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION WITH THE INSTITUTE.

11. TO BE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH ITS REPORT IS NOT YET IN  
WASHINGTON, A GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE TEAM WHICH VISITED  
YEMEN IN MAY 1974 FOR REVIEW OF POLICIES AND OPERATIONS  
JUDGED INSTITUTE TO BE A HIGHLY IMAGINATIVE EMPLOYMENT OF  
INTER-AGENCY RESOURCES TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF AN IMPORTANT  
DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY BY HOST GOVERNMENT.  
A FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTION TEAM WHICH VISITED  
YEMEN IN JUNE CAME TO SIMILAR CONCLUSION.

12. RELEVANT TO OUR PRESENT SITUATION IS FACT THAT  
YARG OFFICIAL WHO ORIGINALLY VETOED THE PEACE CORPS  
BILATERAL, MUHSIN AL-AYNI, IS NOW BY TURN OF POLITICAL  
WHEEL, BACK IN OFFICE AS PRIMIN/FONMIN. I FEAR  
WE CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT IF HE IS GIVEN PRETEXT HE  
WILL ASK THE PEACE CORPS BE REMOVED FROM YEMEN. I  
WOULD, OF COURSE, OPPOSE THIS MOST STRONGLY. HOWEVER,  
IF PEACE CORPS IS SEEN BY YARG TO WITHDRAW FROM INSTITUTE  
AND THEREBY TO BE UNRESPONSIVE TO HIGHEST PRIORITY INTEREST  
ASSIGNED IT BY HOST GOVERNMENT, OUR GROUNDS FOR ARGUING  
AGAINST REMOVAL WILL BE GREATLY WEAKENED.

13. AS LAWYERS, I AM SURE THOSE IN PEACE CORPS GENERAL

COUNSEL'S OFFICE WILL RECOGNIZE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
LEGALITY AS FOUNDED IN LAW AS OPPOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE  
PREFERENCE OR REGULATION. AS WE UNDERSTAND  
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IT QUESTION POSED TO GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE WAS BASED  
ON A JOINT USIA-PEACE CORPS AIRGRAM DATING BACK TO 1961.  
THIS DEALS WITH QUESTION OF WHO SHALL HANDLE PEACE CORPS  
PUBLIC RELATIONS IN THE FIELD. IN THIS CONTEXT, BUT  
THIS CONTEXT ONLY, IT PROSCRIBES CONTACT BETWEEN USIA  
AND INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS. OF GREATER RELEVANCE IN A  
LEGAL SENSE SURELY ARE SECTIONS 4(C) AND 10(A) OF  
PEACE CORPS ACT. FORMER MAKES CLEAR AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY  
OF STATE (AND THROUGH HIM AMBASSADOR) TO ENSURE THAT  
QTE PROGRAMS ARE EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATED BOTH AT HOME AND

ABROAD AND THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES  
IS BEST SERVED THEREBY UNQTE. LATTER AUTHORIZED PRESIDENT  
TO DIRECT PEACE CORPS TO QTE ENTER INTO, PERFORM AND  
MODIFY CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS AND OTHERWISE COOPERATE  
WITH ANY AGENCY OF THE USG...UNQTE. THIS AUTHORITY  
WAS DELEGATED TO DIRECTOR OF ACTION BY E. O. 11603 OF  
JULY 1, 1971. SECTION 4(C)(4) OF ACT AUTHORIZED  
DIRECTOR ACTION TO PRESCRIBE REGULATIONS TO ASSURE THAT  
LMO INDIVIDUAL PERFORMING SERVICE FOR THE PEACE CORPS  
SHALL ENGAGE IN ANY ACTIVITY DETERMINED BY THE DIRECTOR  
TO BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE US.  
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1971 (SECTION 2B) TRANSFERRED  
THIS AUTHORITY TO PRESIDENT. IT WOULD SEEM CLEAR THAT  
PEACE CORPS CAN COOPERATE WITH USIA UNLESS PRESIDENT  
DETERMINES IT DETRIMENTAL TO BEST INTEREST OF US. WE  
SEE NO STATUTORY BAR IN THE ACT UNLESS PRESIDENT MAKE  
THIS DETERMINATION. IF 1961 AIRGRAM WRONGLY CONSTRUED  
AS PROHIBITION RE USIA, THE FACT THAT VOLUNTEERS FOR  
INSTITUTE ARE ASSIGNED TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SHOULD  
OBTAIN ANY PROBLEM.

14. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF HIS CLEAR LEGAL  
AUTHORITY OVER PEACE CORPS NOW INCORPORATED IN ACTION, I  
WOULD APPRECIATE DECISION BY SECRETARY OF APPROPRIATE  
SUBORDINATE THAT CONTINUED PARTICIPATION OF PEACE CORPS  
VOLUNTEERS TEACHING AT YEMEN-AMERICA ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
INSTITUTE IS (A) IN NO WAY PROSCRIBED BY LAW AND (B)  
SHOULD CONTINUE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 08 JUL 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** martinml  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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